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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Michihiro Nagaishi, et al. Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

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Title: Information Sorting Method, Information Sorting Apparatus, and Storage Medium for Storing an Information Sorting Processing Software Program

CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that this Preliminary Amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee" under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231".

Dated: February 2, 2001

Ann F. George

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Preliminary to examination please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 16, after "search", insert --for--; and

lines 23-24, delete "Since the Web pages are currently more and more increasing" and insert --Since the number of web pages is currently increasing-- therefor.

IN THE CLAIMS:

7. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 1 through 6] claim 1, wherein when the clustering process is performed on the search result, information to be clustered is at least one of the title of a

document, a URL address, an update date, and a file size of an individual search result.

12. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 9 through 11] claim 9, wherein the cluster score determining step for rearranging the cluster order is individually performed correspondingly to the plurality of search services when the clustering process is performed correspondingly to the search results provided by the plurality of search services.

13. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 8 through 12] claim 8, wherein the clustering process is performed based on a feature, and wherein the title of each document is detected and a word characteristic of and contained in the title is extracted as the feature.

14. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 8 through 13] claim 8, wherein the manner of outputting the clustering result with the cluster order rearranged comprises displaying the clusters in the order of the magnitude of scores from a high score to a low score and wherein when there are clusters having the same cluster score, one of the clusters having a larger number of documents therewithin is positioned higher in the cluster order.

20. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 16 through 19] claim 16, wherein the arrangement order of clusters forming the clustering result summary table agrees with the arrangement order of the clusters in the clustering result.

21. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 16 through 20] claim 16, wherein when the clustering result summary table is displayed, the manner of displaying the cluster names is changed in the clustering result summary table depending on the importance of each cluster in response to the clustering result.

22. (Amended) An information sorting method according to [one of claims 16 through 21] claim 16, wherein when a plurality of documents to be clustered are